REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 at page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Th Examiner argues that claims 3 and 9 are unclear, because they comprise a porous sheet comprised of a porous sheet and another sheet. The Examiner argues that the recitation of a porous sheet as part of a porous sheet is confusing, and clarification is requested.

In response, the Examiner is kindly requested to note the above-shown amendments to claims 3 and 9, which are deemed to clarify each such claim in a manner which does not reduce its scope, but which is deemed to resolve any perceived ambiguity in these claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 4 at page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamashita et al, U.S. Patent 5,189,405. The Examiner argues that Yamashita discloses a thin film electroluminescent panel comprising a covering over the electroluminescent element (referring to the abstract). The Examiner argues that Yamashita discloses all components recited in each of claims 1-12, for the reasons set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Yamashita does not anticipate or otherwise render any of the present claims unpatentable, for the following reasons.

Although the Examiner alleges a connection between the moisture absorption sheet 4 as described in Yamashita and a member for an elecroluminescent device of the present invention,

Applicants respectfully submit that both members are quite different in their constitutions from each other.

The member for an electroluminescent device of the present invention (claim 1) comprises "a container a part of which is made of a porous material and a removing agent capable of removing a prescribed gaseous component, the removing agent being contained in the container". For example, such a member is shown in Fig. 1.

On the other hand, the moisture absorption sheet as described in Yamashita is a sheet of an organic polymer with scattered powder of moisture absorbent (for example, a silica fine powder), as described in column 1, lines 53 to 55 and column 3, lines 3 to 6 thereof.

As discussed above, because both members are different in their constitutions from each other, the effects which are taken with are also different from each other.

In the case of the sheet of an organic polymer with scattered powder of moisture absorbent as described in Yamashita, the amount of powder of moisture absorbent scattered cannot be increased. When the amount of powder of moisture absorbent scattered is increased, the thus-obtained mixture is hard to form into a sheet, or cannot be formed into a sheet.

On the other hand, in the present invention, for example, as shown in Fig. 1, the removing agent can be contained in a space of the container which is made of a porous sheet 11 and a non-porous sheet 13. Accordingly, because the amount of the removing agent contained can be increased, the moisture absorbing effect is enhanced and continued for a long period of time.

Further, in Yamashita, when the mixture is formed into a sheet, the mixture is heated to a temperature higher than the melting point of the organic polymer (because the formation of the organic polymer into a sheet is generally conducted by melt forming). Under such heating, one must pay attention to the deterioration of the powder of moisture absorbent.

On the other hand, in the present invention, the removing agent is not exposed to such high temperature. For example, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the member for electroluminescent devices is formed by sandwiching the removing agent 12 between the porous sheet 11 and the non-porous sheet 13, and sealing both sheets to each other at their peripheral portion closely; and as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the member for electroluminescent devices is formed by putting the removing agent 12 into the non-porous sheet 13 containing a container 13b with a lid 13a having an opening and covering the opening with the porous sheet 11.

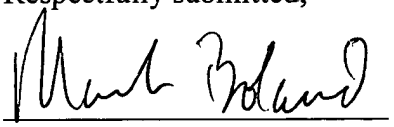
Accordingly, the present invention is different in structure and effect from that of Yamashita.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Boland
Registration No. 32,197

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The member according to claim 2, wherein said porous sheet is an air-permeable laminate sheet [composed of] comprising a porous [sheet] layer and a reinforcing [sheet] layer.

9. (Amended) The electroluminescent device according to claim 8, wherein said porous sheet is an air-permeable laminate sheet [composed of] comprising a porous [sheet] layer and a reinforcing [sheet] layer.